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FM THE WHITE HOUSE

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SECTION ONE OF TWO

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DELIVER TO GEN HAIG FOR DR. KISSINGER AT AMBASSADOR WATSON'S RESIDENCE

NEWS PAPER SUMMARY

OCTOBER 8, 1972

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE
INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

NEW YORK TIMES

ACCORDING TO CRAIG WHITNEY, WHAT THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE MARINES CAPTURED IN QUANG TRI MORE THAN TWO WEEKS AGO WAS NOT QUANG TRI CITY, NOR THE QUANG TRI CITADEL. IT WAS AN UNRECOGNIZABLE WASTELAND OF SMASHED BUILDINGS AND CRATERS. HE NOTES THAT MOST OF THE 300,000 PLUS REFUGEES FROM QUANG TRI PROVINCE ARE HUDDLED IN WRETCHED SQUALOR IN REFUGEE CAMPS AT DANANG.

HENRY TANNER REPORTS THAT THE EGYPTIANS WERE TOLD IN STRONG TERMS YESTERDAY THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO IMPROVEMENT IN SOVIET-EGYPTIAN RELATIONS SINCE PRESIDENT SADAT DEMANDED THE WITHDRAWAL OF SOVIET MILITARY CREWS IN JULY. THE NEWS APPEARED IN AN UNUSUALLY STRONG EDITORIAL IN CAIRO THAT ALSO SAID THAT SADAT'S DECISION TO SEND PREMIER SIDKY TO MOSCOW ON OCTOBER 16 WAS NOT THE RESULT OF ANY SOVIET CONCESSION.

TILLMAN DURDIN SPECULATES ON THE DANGER THAT THE GENERALS WHO ARE NOW SERVING AS INSTRUMENTS OF PRESIDENT MARCOS'S REGIME WILL REFUSE TO RELINQUISH THE POWER ROLE THEY NOW PLAY. HE NOTES, HOWEVER, THAT THE PHILIPPINE ARMED FORCES HAVE A LONG TRADITION OF OBEYING CIVIL AUTHORITY, AND CHANCES ARE THEY WOULD FALL BACK IF SOME FUTURE POPULARLY ELECTED GOVERNMENT REQUIRED IT.

BETWEEN THE U.S. AND USSR, THE CLOSE-TO-THE-VEST DIPLOMATIC STYLE OF THE WHITE HOUSE IS DEMORALIZING THE CAREER DIPLOMATS AT THE AMERICAN EMBASSY WHO MUST CONDUCT RELATIONS WITH MOSCOW OVER THE LONG RUN. IN ITS EVIDENT EAGERNESS TO PROTECT THE SECRECY OF NEGOTIATIONS UNDERWAY WITH MOSCOW, THE WHITE HOUSE HAS LARGELY BYPASSED THE EMBASSY, LEAVING OFFICIALS THERE FEELING UNINFORMED AND OUT OF THE PICTURE. EMBASSY OFFICIALS AND OTHER DIPLOMATS WERE SURPRISED TO NOTICE THAT WHEN YOU WERE HERE FOR TALKS IN MID-SEPTEMBER, AMB. BEAM EVIDENTLY DID NOT PARTICIPATE.

SUNDAY STAR

COMMUNIST FORCES CAPTURED A HAMLET 10 MILES FROM SAIGON AND THEN AMBUSHED A GVN RANGER BATTALION ATTEMPTING TO RECAPTURE IT. THE COMMUNISTS ARE CONVERGING ON SAIGON FROM THREE DIRECTIONS AND HOLD THREE OTHER HAMLETS 15 MILES NORTH OF THE CAPITAL.

NORWAY'S LABOR GOVERNMENT RESIGNED YESTERDAY FOLLOWING A DEFEAT ON THE COMMON MARKET ISSUE. THE CHRISTIAN PEOPLE'S PARTY SAYS IT WILL TRY TO FORM A NEW ANTI-MARKET COALITION GOVERNMENT WITH THE LIBERALS AND THE CENTER PARTY.

KASTURI RANGAN REPORT FROM NEW DELHI THAT THE CAUSE OF MOB VIOLENCE IN RECENT WEEKS IS SMALL SCALE INCIDENTS THAT POLITICAL OPPONENTS OF PRIME MINISTER GANDHI HAVE INFLATED TO NATIONAL PROPORTIONS.

JAMES FOSTER NOTES FROM BEIRUT THAT US MILITARY ATTACHE MAJOR RICHARD BARROTT IS STILL BEING HELD INCOMMUNICADO IN SYRIA, APPARENTLY A VICTIM OF MID-EAST BETTERNESS OVER THE MUNICH OLYMPIC VIOLENCE, WITH NO HINT OF WHAT THE SYRIANS PROPOSE TO DO NEXT.

THE SOVIET ARMY HAS BEEN TOLD TO REDUCE BREAD USAGE AND REDUCE WASTE BY AN ARTICLE IN THE DEFENSE MINISTRY'S PAPER RED STAR. THE HARVEST OUTLOOK FOR WHEAT REMAINS BLEAK DUE TO BAD WEATHER AND DELAYS IN PLOWING WHICH THREATEN NEXT YEAR'S CROP.

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FINAL SECTION OF TWO

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THE SUNDAY POST

SOUTH VIETNAM'S PRESIDENTIAL PALACE DESCRIBED YESTERADAY AS "PURE FABRICATION" A REPORT FRIDAY OF A NEW ALLIED PROPOSAL UNDER WHICH PRESIDENT THIEU WOULD RESIGN.

THE PROPOSAL, PUBLISHED BY UPI IN A DISPATCH FROM SAIGON, WAS ATTRIBUTED TO SOUTH VIETNAM AND AMERICAN SOURCES. IT SAID THAT IN RETURN FOR THIEU'S RESIGNATION AND TOTAL WITHDRAWAL OF U.S. FORCES, THE NORTH VIETNAMESE WOULD AGREE TO END THEIR INFILTRATION OF TROOPS INTO THE SOUTH, RELEASE ALL AMERICAN POWS, AND "NEGOTIATE SERIOUSLY" TO END THE WAR.

UNDER THE NEW PROPOSAL, THE VIETCONG COULD STILL CONTINUE FIGHTING TO OVERTHROW THE SAIGON GOVERNMENT.

NORTH VIETNAM, MEANWHILE, CONTINUED TO ATTACK THE PRESIDENT'S THURSDAY STATEMENT THAT THE PARIS PEACE TALKS HAVE REACHED "A SENSITIVE STAGE."

IN A RADIO HANOI BROADCAST MONITORED IN TOKYO, A NORTH VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT STATEMENT CALLED MR. NIXON'S REMARK "AN ATTEMPT TO MAKE BELIEVE THAT HE, TOO, IS PROMPTED BY 'GOODWILL.'"

"UP TO ITS LAST SESSION ON OCTOBER 5," THE BROADCAST CONTINUED, "THE PARIS CONFERENCE ON VIETNAM STILL MARKED TIME. THIS IS DUE TO THE ... OBDURATE AND BELLICOSE STAND OF NIXON ACCORDING TO WHICH THE PRESENT ADMINISTRATION IN SAIGON ... HEADED BY NGUYEN VAN THIEU IS THE ONLY "CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT."

IN A CONTRIBUTING ARTICLE ON THE EDITORIAL PAGE, CHESTER COOPER CONTENDS THAT "MUCH OF WHAT HAS BEEN SAID AND DONE WITH RESPECT TO THE POWS DURING THE LAST SIX YEARS HAS BEEN INEVITABLE CONSIDERING THE AMERICAN CHARACTER AND CURRENT MOOD. BUT WE MUST ACKNOWLEDGE THAT OUR POSTURE AND POLICY

OBVIOUS IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO THE RETURN OF OUR PRISONERS,
THAT THE NORTH VIETNAMESE WILL AGREE TO A POLITICAL SETTLEMENT
THAT FALLS SIGNIFICANTLY SHORT OF MEETING HANOI'S MAXIMUM
DEMANDS. AND IT IS NAIVE TO BELIEVE THAT AMERICAN POWS WILL
BE FREED BEFORE A FINAL POLITICAL SETTLEMENT. H. ROSS PEROT
CANNOT BUY THEM OUT, JIMMY HOFFA (NOW THERE IS "EXPLOITATION")
CANNOT CON THEM OUT, DAVE DELLINGER CANNOT SWEET TALK THEM OUT,
AND AS SURE AS SURE CAN BE, THE AIR FORCE AND THE NAVY CANNOT
BOMB THEM OUT, WHEN THE POWS ARE HOME FREE IT WILL BE
BECAUSE A FEW SKILLED PATIENT DIPLOMATS, AS PART OF A LARGER
SETTLEMENT PACKAGE, HAVE NEGOTIATED THEM OUT.

JOSEPH KRAFT NOTES THAT THE NORTH VIETNAMESE STILL WANT TO
ACHIEVE A CHANGE IN THE GOVERNMENT OF SAIGON AS A CONDITION
FOR COMING TO TERMS. THEY WILL GO FOR A CEASE-FIRE ONLY AFTER
AGREEMENT THAT PRESIDENT THIEU AND HIS TEAM BE REPLACED BY A
NEUTRAL REGIME. IN THAT RESPECT BOTH PRESIDENT NIXON AND
PRIME MINISTER PHAM VAN DONG ARE RIGHT WHEN THEY WARN THERE
HAS BEEN NO BREAKTHROUGH.

SO THE VIETNAM PROSPECT IS NOW SHADOWED BY A NEW QUESTION:
WHETHER PRESIDENT NIXON'S POLITICAL INTEREST ISN'T BETTER
SERVED BY WAITING UNTIL AFTER THE ELECTION BEFORE BRINGING
THE NEGOTIATIONS TO A HEAD.

THIEU FOR THE TIME BEING CAN BLOCK ANY AGREEMENT. DETAILS
GALORE HAVE TO BE WORKED OUT, AND PRESIDENT THIEU IS IN
~~GOOD POSITION TO BE OBSTRUCTIONIST ON SMALL POINTS.~~ IN A
PINCH HE CAN SIMPLY DIG IN HIS HEELS AND REFUSE TO GO ALONG -
AS HE DID AT THE TIME OF THE 1968 ELECTION.

BUT GIVEN SEN. MCGOVERN'S DISMAL CAMPAIGN, THE PRESIDENT
HAS NO SPECIAL NEED TO GET A DEAL BEFORE ELECTION DAY. INDEED,
IT IS HARD TO THINK OF ANYBODY NOW OPPOSING THE PRESIDENT
WHO WOULD BE WON OVER BY A VIETNAM SETTLEMENT. IF ANYTHING, ON
THE CONTRARY, THE KIND OF SETTLEMENT THAT IS BOUND TO EMERGE
WOULD PROBABLY COST THE PRESIDENT SUPPORTERS ON HIS RIGHT WING.

SO THE BEST TIMING FOR PRESIDENT NIXON IS A SETTLEMENT
MADE SOMETIME AFTER THE ELECTION WHEN HE IS INVULNERABLE TO
PRESSURES FROM GEN. THIEU. AND THE BEST BET ABOUT DR. KISSINGER'S
ROAD SHOW IS THAT IT WILL STAY ON THE ROAD UNTIL, AND AFTER,
ELECTION DAY.